

The Northwest Missourian

THURSDAY Dec. 3, 2009 | V85 | N13

NWMissourinews.com



Check out Austin Buckner's plan to change the face of pro wrestling, A7

THIS WEEK CAMPUS

Post-game event

The Northwest Alumni will again be sponsoring a post-game celebration if the 'Cats make it to the National Championship game.

For details please visit the Northwest Web site.

Yuletide Feaste

Saturday's Yuletide Feast banquet has been moved to 4:30 p.m., earlier than originally announced, in order for Bearcat football fans who may be attending the game at 7:30 p.m. to attend the Feaste.

Casual dress is encouraged for fans or others attending the Feaste prior to the football game.

COMMUNITY

Holiday Brunch

A holiday brunch will be offered at the Nodaway County Museum on Sat., Dec. 5. The reception will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Reservations are suggested, beginning at \$10 each for the brunch.

Please call 660.582.4998 for further information on the event and to make reservations.

Maryville Soccer

The Maryville boys soccer team placed six players on the all-district team. Jackson Graves and John Morton were on the first team. Dexter Barmann, Kalvin Talmage, Ryan Vandivert and Shawn Scheffe were named to the second team.

Five players were named to the all-conference team. Graves, Morton and Vandivert were named selected to the first team. Barmann and Scheffe were slated for the second team.

Basketball Camp

An adult basketball camp will be offered this winter. Registration is going on until Dec. 11. at the Maryville Community Center.

For more information please call 660.562.2923.

BEARCATS

Saturday

- Football- NCAA Semifinals vs. California (PA) at Bearcat Stadium, 7:30 p.m.- Game will be broadcast on CBS College Sports Network
- Mens Basketball vs. Washburn at Bearcat Arena, 3:30 p.m.
- Womens Basketball vs. Washburn at Bearcat Arena, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday

- Mens Basketball at Fort Hays State, 7:30 p.m.
- Womens Basketball at Fort Hays State, 5:30 p.m.

SPOOFHOUNDS

Thursday

- Varsity Girls Basketball vs. Leblond at Savannah, 8 p.m.
- Freshmen Boys Basketball vs. Savannah at home, 6 p.m.
- Freshmen Girls Basketball vs. Savannah at home, 5 p.m.

Saturday

- Junior Varsity Wrestling at Central Tournament, 9 a.m.

Tuesday

- Girls Basketball vs. Lafayette at home, 5 p.m.

BOEHRINGER INGLEHEIM VETMEDICA INC.

Master's program created for employees

By Cassie Thomas
Missourian Reporter

Northwest and Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica Inc., BIVI, have come together to help BIVI employees further their education in a convenient way.

Northwest and BIVI will collaborate in customizing a master's program for their employees. Two Northwest faculty members, along with two representatives from BIVI, signed the agreement Monday morning in St. Joseph.

"It is an elegant and simple way to meet the needs of BIVI employees," McAdams said.

All classes offered to BIVI employees fall within the current Northwest catalogue. Students currently

enrolled in the biology masters program will not be affected.

"This makes great use of the current program that we offer," McAdams said.

The purpose of this agreement is to offer a variety of courses in multiple methods, including classroom time as well as online classes. Classes may be taken at Northwest's Maryville campus, as well as Northwest's St. Joseph Center or through blended instruction, which is simply a mix of online

instruction and traditional classroom learning.

The creation of this 18-month program will directly benefit BIVI employees due to its large amount student convenience. In order to enroll, employees must meet all Northwest enrollment and admissions criteria.

Northwest also has a similar program at the Kansas City Center that presents the opportunity for students to work full time and pursue higher education.

ADVENT



photo by mallory dahmer | missourian photographer

SAINT GREGORY'S PARISH celebrates the season of advent by lighting traditional candles. Pam VanSickle lights a set of candles in the church. The season of advent lasts four weeks in preparation for Christmas.

Churches spread true meaning of holiday season

By Brian Johnson
Features Editor

This past week was filled with discounts and purchases in anticipation of the festivities of the Christmas holiday. While purchases and giving are a big part of the holiday season, there was also the start of Advent, which reminds us what Christmas is really about.

Advent is simply the preparation in the weeks leading up to Christmas which started on the last Sunday of November. For Christians it is a time-honored tradition that includes special sermons and traditional ceremonies like the lighting

of Advent candles on the Sundays before Christmas. For Wes Mayfield of the Maryville First Baptist Church, Advent has a personal meaning to him that one can expect from other Christians as well.

"For me personally based upon scripture, it's celebrating the birth of Christ and his significance in our lives," Mayfield said. "We take this time to celebrate the fact that God sent his only son Jesus to be born of the Virgin."

Mayfield, who is the Youth Minister of The First Baptist Church, said that his church doesn't celebrate Advent like most churches. He said

that about the only special event that the church has planned is a Christmas Eve service. He said that Baptist churches don't really focus on special events, but like to focus more on the message.

Mayfield wants to use Advent as an opportunity to get people to look past the frenzied buying and materialism that Christmas is associated with and get to the heart of why people celebrate Christmas.

"Not all of us have an abundance of money and not all of us have that ability to just go out there and buy what we want," Mayfield said. "So that's

a great opportunity to focus on what really matters ... and not getting so caught up in the materialism of what Christmas has become."

One of Mayfield's duties at the church is to simply help people. He deals with helping some members during tough times, and he said the Advent celebration does sometimes turn negative for some of the people he sees.

"I do see a whole bunch of different attitude shifts. I see some people who are more stressed ... maybe because of financial strains,"

See CHURCH on A5

IRAQ DEPLOYMENT

Teacher goes from lecture hall to Iraq this summer

By Matthew Leimkuehler
Missourian Reporter

At Northwest, many professors tend to occupy their summers with fun hobbies such as fishing or golfing. For Mark Corson, his summer will be filled with a deployment to Iraq as the Brigade Air General of the 103 Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

The 103 ESC is based out of Des Moines, Iowa, with command and control over 6,000 soldiers in the states of Minnesota, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri. The unit is set to deploy in the summer of

2010, with the goal of participating in Operation Responsible Drawdown, which is the evacuation of soldiers from Iraq.

Corson plans to contribute in the withdrawal of 80,000 soldiers from Iraq, according to the ORD.

"People need to realize we won't occupy Iraq forever," Corson said. "We got rid of an evil dictator, they have a democratic government, rule of law and established stability. We've done what we can do and it's time to pull out and leave them to their own devices."

Corson has served in the military for 26 years,

and served in Iraq when America began the occupation six years ago. Corson took command of the 450th Movement Control Battalion in August 2002, where they spend 30 days in Iraq and eight months in Kuwait where they conducted theater movement control operations in the largest concentrated military movement since World War II.

Looking back, Corson discusses the overall occupation of Iraq the Americans have had for the majority of the past decade.

"I feel good, they still have a lot of challenges, but we've done all we can do,"



PROFESSOR MARK CORSON looks over plans for students simulated human relief convoy in Principles of Humanitarian Relief.

Corson said.

Corson has laid out both personal and group goals for the 103 ESC's deployment to Iraq.

"One: bring everyone

back safe and sound. Two: make sure our supported units have everything they

See CORSON on A5

BOARD OF REGENTS

Gov.'s office in charge of empty seats

By Greg Miller
News Editor

The University Board of Regents may begin the new year with three open positions on a nine-seat board.

In addition to the two positions that have been open for several months, Student Regent Bradley Gardner's term ends in December.

"We have two open board seats," John Jasinski, President of Northwest Missouri State University, said. "Slated candidates have applied to the governor's office for both of those seats."

The naming of candidates is not up to the board of regents, but to Gov. Jay Nixon's office.

"It's the Governor's decision," Bill Loch, president of the Board of Regents, said. "He has a lot of appointments to make."

He has a lot of appointments, indeed. Jasinski said the Governor has informed him of at least 250 boards with vacancies, and he has been in regular contact with Nixon regarding the open seats.

"I can tell you this process is well under way," Gov. Nixon's press secretary Scott Holste said. "We're hoping it will reach its conclusion for the positions fairly soon."

According to Holste, each candidate is reviewed closely. Following the review, interviews begin in an effort to find the right candidate.

"They are the body that determines what the policies of the university are," he said. "We want to make sure that the people that sit on the board have the capability of carrying out those duties and certainly have a deep sense of responsibility."

Nominations come from various sources including faculty, general public or legislators, and with so many positions to be filled on boards across the state.

"Sometimes this can take a while to fill a seat on a particular board," Holste said. "Missouri has so many boards and commissions that have to be filled by gubernatorial appointment."

Jasinski said he has been in regular contact with the Governor's office and expects an appointment to be made soon.

"I have confidence we'll be receiving official word soon," he said.

C-CERT

Preparation key in disaster, students learn importance of calm

By Greg Miller
News Editor

Diana Pope signed up for C-CERT training two months ago because she wanted to help. She has had many close calls with either death or emergency in the past.

"I lived in the Carson's building that is still standing when the fire occurred," she said.

The \$600,000 fire in the adjacent building nearly

three years ago displaced nine Northwest students, and served as a reminder of how important calm can be in an emergency.

"Anything that helps you not panic is a step in the right direction," she said.

C-CERT, Campus Crisis Emergency Response training, began in September with 3 students, who have now become trainers themselves.

Pope thinks of it as a form of community service.

"If you can prepare to help yourself, it's a gift to the community," she said.

Pope learned many years ago she was not someone who panicked easily; she was held hostage in a bank robbery nearly 30 years ago.

Since then she has been a girl scout leader of three troops acting as repel master, and has also trained red cross trainers.

The training allows certified volunteers to act as assis-

tants to emergency responders; assisting crews in everything from filling sandbags to light search and rescue missions.

The volunteers also learn how emergency response systems work.

Pope recalled a specific disaster in Eureka, Mo. When CERT volunteers arrived with their own shovels, food and footwear ready to assist, they were used much easier than ordinary volunteers because they were equipped for the

situation.

The training involves real-time simulations where participants practice disaster relief efforts. One particular simulation involved being trapped in the dark in a collapsing building.

"We had two choices, stay and die, or get out," Pope said. "As a CERT volunteer, I have to do the most good for the most people."

Leaders of CERT are happy with the progress of

the students, and the response from both campus and community.

"We were pleased with the number of students and faculty interested," Assistant Professor of Psychology April Haberyan, said. "I think we're generating more interest."

She also said the progress shown proves the program is a success.

"You should never stop learning to be prepared," Pope said.

ART EXHIBIT

Instructors' paintings, drawings displayed in art museum

By Cassie Thomas
Missourian Reporter

After moving over one thousand miles from California to join the Northwest department of art, Christopher Graves, along with six other faculty members, has been given the honor of displaying his work at the Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art in St. Joseph. The art will be displayed through Jan. 10 and occupies the museum's first floor.

The museum requested that each faculty member select six to 10 recent works

to be displayed. There is no common theme between the pieces from artist to artist, but some faculty members tried to stick with a common theme throughout their works.

Featured in this exhibit are assistant professors Graves, Laura Kukkee and Glenn Williams; associate professors Armin Mühsam and Craig Warner; and professors Phillip Laber and Kim Spradling.

Graves has six pieces in this display, all of which are paintings and drawings. A few were made specifically for this exhibit.

While selecting which pieces he wanted to put on display he tried to go with a common theme that has been present in his works.

"I looked at a large body of work and selected a few pieces that work together," Graves said. His recent works focus on the human figure and abstract studies. Graves spent many years learning to master drawing realistically so he could depart to the abstract and put his own twist on the realistic.

"For me the human form is the most challenging and interesting subject to draw,"

Graves said. "It's very satisfying to translate what you see on to paper."

Graves joined the Northwest in August to teach graphic design, after 20 years of experience as a graphic designer for numerous companies.

Laber has two paintings, two digitals prints on canvas and six etchings and engravings with digital ink prints on display.

"This is an extremely rare opportunity and we, the Art department faculty, want to share our works," Laber said.

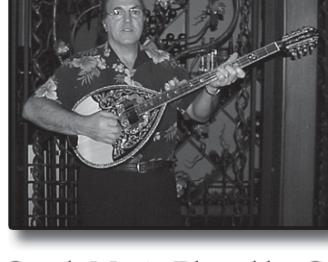
YULETIDE FEASTE



photo by kevin birdsell | missourian photographer

THE NORTHWEST MADRALIERS invite passerbys in the Union to the Yuletide Feaste. The Feaste will take place Friday night at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday at 4:30 p.m.

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COMMUNITY

H1N1 SHOTS

County, campus host swine flu vaccine clinics

By Mark Kauffman
Missourian Reporter

The Nodaway County Health Department is doing its part to safeguard Maryville's health.

The Health Department has scheduled walk-in H1N1 vaccine clinics for almost every weekday this December. The exceptions are next Monday and Friday, which are seasonal flu clinics. Also Dec. 21-22 and 28-31 are H1N1 clinics for school-aged children only. The Health center will close Dec. 23-25 for Christmas. The clinics begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 4 p.m.

Vaccine limitations and bad weather might cancel some of these clinics. The Health Center will continue to hold the scheduled clinics as long as the supply of vaccine lasts. They will also close in the event of a weather storm warning.

Although the Health Center suggests a donation of \$15, these clinics charge no fees for

the vaccine. This is possible because the government has purchased and supplied both the vaccine and the equipment to state and local health departments across the country. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site, providers are not permitted to charge for the vaccine itself.

However, according to the same Web site, private providers may charge insured patients in order to cover the costs of administering the vaccine.

The Health Center paired up with Northwest Missouri State University on Tuesday to provide a free clinic for Northwest students. The University Wellness Center hosted the clinic.

"After they treated high priorities, children and pregnant women, we approached them about vaccinating students," Judy Frueh, clinical supervisor, said.

The University Wellness Center administered 82 vac-

cines on Tuesday of the 300 they had in stock Frueh said.

"I wanted to get the vaccine just in case," John Plummer said. "There's no reason not to."

Some people were more worried than reassured by the vaccines, however.

"I don't want it because you never know what those chemicals might do to you," Denise Dibben said. "I'll take my chances with the flu."

Dibben isn't alone in her fear. People have often debated the safety of any sort of vaccination, not merely the H1N1 vaccine. However, the CDC says that the H1N1 vaccine is just as safe as the seasonal flu vaccine and strongly suggests people take advantage of the free vaccination.

The Wellness Center will continue to provide vaccines on a daily basis until supplies run out. Students are asked to make appointments for their vaccinations, but walk-ins are accepted.

FRANKLIN PARK



photo by lori frankenfield | chief photographer

FRANKLIN PARK GLOWS bright with Christmas decorations as it is turned into The Winter Wonderland. The park will host entertainment, such as wagon rides and treats, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4.

BLACK FRIDAY

Busiest shopping day of year average for some businesses

By Kylie Guier
Asst. News Editor

Every year shoppers across the nation get up early for Black Friday, the busiest shopping day of the year. Shoppers in Maryville were no different.

Despite a less than stellar economy, many local businesses believed sales were about the same or slightly lower due to other reasons.

"We were down a little compared to last year but we believe that has a lot to do with the Spoofhounds football team playing the

championship in St. Louis," Jim Boswell, JCPenney store manager said. "But we were down. I'm sure the economy has something to do with it as well."

JCPenney opened their doors at 4 a.m. rather than the typical 9 a.m. Boswell said the store had a lot of big buys that went on and doorbusters to draw in crowds.

"There were quite a few people," Boswell said. "A lot of people were at the store at 4 a.m."

While many Maryville residents make the trip down to St. Joseph for their holiday shopping, Sarah

Harris decided to stick around.

"Black Friday is always really hectic, but if you want to get the best deal possible you just have to suck it up and head out early to fight the crowds," Harris said.

Harris spent most of her time shopping at Walmart for clothes and toys for her family.

"I definitely didn't spend as much this year as I have in the past, but I bought quite a few things," she said.

Some businesses found that the economy and football games had little to no

affect on store sales.

Steve Coleman is co-owner of Wearhouse Exchange with his wife. He said sales were almost identical to last year's.

"It was actually a good day," Coleman said. "It was a fairly average day."

Coleman felt that the holiday weekend didn't necessarily bring in more customers, but different people than usual.

"It usually brings in different people, people that are visiting family or back in town for the holidays," Coleman said.

While Black Friday is

not an official holiday, many people are given the day off as part of Thanksgiving. The term "Black Friday" originally came about as a way to describe the heavy traffic on that day, but is now known as the day retailers go from being in the red to being in the black.

The National Retail Foundation expected bigger crowds as opposed to past years, but for consumers to spend roughly the same. The Foundation also stated that more than a quarter of Americans took to the web for their holiday shopping needs.

Cyber Monday consists of hot deals over the Internet for shoppers and the number of people partaking has jumped nearly 75 percent over the past three years.

"A lot of people are doing Cyber Monday now," said Boswell.

JCPenney was just one of many retailers participating in the online sales this season.

"I think shopping online might have been a bit easier on me as far as the crowds and getting up so early," Harris said. "Maybe that is what I'll do next year."

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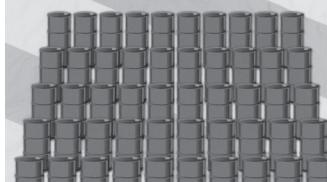
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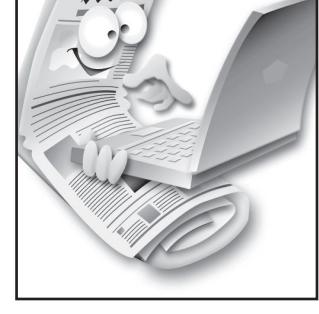
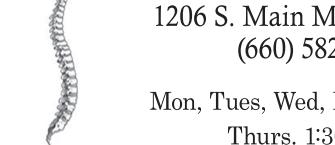
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OUR VIEW

Public panic over Swine Flu mostly unnecessary

Every year around this time we flip on the tube to watch the news, and we see a slew of reporters talking about the flu season. Most of these reports are rather informative about what to look for, vaccinations and so forth. This year shouldn't have been all that different. However, it's not just the flu this time, it's H1N1. And the panic begins.

A lot of people in the United States, parents especially, are flipping

out right now about this supposed pandemic. But is panic really necessary? Is the Swine Flu really that dangerous, or is this a bunch of hype to incite public fear and fill news slots?

According to the CDC, an estimation of 36,000 people in the United States die each year from complications of the flu, while around 200,000 people are hospitalized. And with this new strand, we can expect even more deaths

and more hospitalizations.

Obviously precautions should be taken, just like with any other illness any other time of the year. Wash your hands, drink plenty of fluids, avoid people that are sick, try to prevent illness by building your immunity and if you feel like it, get a vaccine. Does any of this sound familiar?

Certainly the flu can be fatal, and therefore H1N1 as well. However

(except for the few cases of death) most of the cases reported in the United States haven't been that serious, and there is nothing more to worry about than the average flu season. For right now, we have not been hit with major damage, and we do not know for certain to what extent the damage may be.

While we should be cautious about the Swine Flu just like with any other illness, especially with

young children and older adults, we should still try not to go off our rockers by calling our doctors every two seconds or scheduling hospital visits with the first symptom we see. We should all stop, calm down and think for a second.

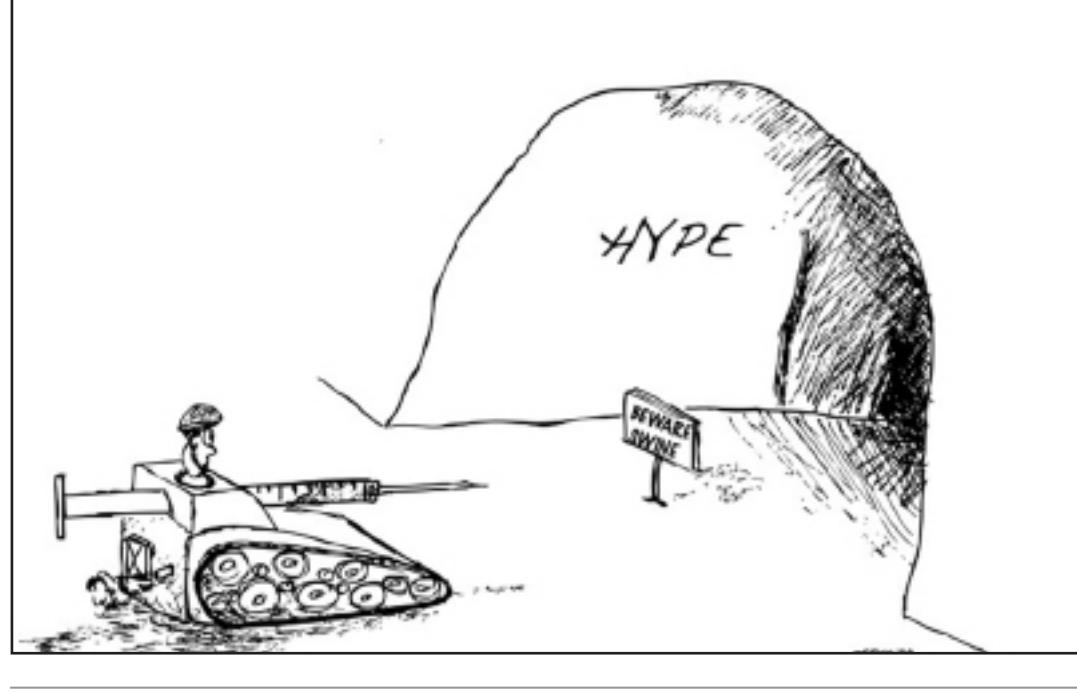
We do not want to overwhelm our health care system and in the process make countless others sick, nor do we want to take away the limited vaccines from those

who really need them. And absolutely nothing is worse than public panic, especially if that panic is unwarranted.

So, is this really a risk to our world, or is this all just a bunch of hype? Certainly there's a risk. But for right now, that risk is small and we do not know to what extent that risk will be. We think it's safe to say that the Swine Flu hype has become a little out of control.

WHAT THE DEUCE

CARTOON



MY VIEW

The apathy of today's generation is warranted



Kathleen Wilmes
Opinion Editor

According to CNN, Sheila Dixon, Baltimore's mayor, was found guilty of one count of fraudulently misappropriation and convicted of embezzlement. Apparently Dixon had misused gift cards for personal use instead of going towards those less fortunate. Despite the possibility of prison time, Dixon still plans to continue to serve as mayor. However, we must ask to what degree is she serving the city while willing to take away from those less fortunate to serve her own interests?

While we all know that most politicians are no saints by any means, that shouldn't necessarily mean we should expect them to break the law, nor should we condone such behavior.

When it comes time for Dixon to be sentenced, hopefully our system will prevail.

While walking back to my house from campus last week, I began to think about how I would resolve the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. However, the only solution I could come up with was similar to how I would deal with my nieces and nephews if they were fighting over a toy. I wouldn't hand it over to whoever had it first. If they could not share, I would take whatever the kids were fighting over away from both.

True, kids crying over a toy is different than grown people launching rockets at one another for land. However, the only difference I see is the end result of each, one being of tears and hurt feelings, the other being thousands of people dying. The causes to both results are the same to me- property, which I think is rather meaningless to die and kill for.

And then it hit me, an epiphany about my growing apathy towards political issues as of late.

Two years ago, I would have said apathy is hands down the world's greatest evil. Now I

can understand why people do not care enough to throw themselves fully into some political issue, or completely participate in the discourse of any such issue. The issues themselves are oftentimes pointless once you strip away the rhetoric and propaganda. And even if a particular issue is resolved within a country that is portrayed to be bad or undemocratic or whatever, there is always another country or another issue to take its place.

Our world leaders- whether elected, appointed or placed through the idea of right by force- are nothing but squabbling children, stamping their feet over the most trivial things.

I see no positive policies implemented for the universal good. I see nothing but causes of nationalism, religion, ethnicity, regionalism, tribalism and so forth. Each of which are causes of division when unity should be sought, and not that of a nation or of a state, but the unity of all mankind for goals that every single person shares with every other single person- life and happiness.

I do not care what you believe or what you don't believe because it does not affect me. I do not care what direction you face in prayer because I don't care what you pray, nor should I. Why is it important to any of us?

We do not need borders to limit the search for the common good. We do not need songs of nationalism to dictate the direction of our heart's desire. Flags are unnecessary when trying to find some greater purpose to believe in and model our lives after. We do not need the death of another for useless gain such as the luxurious state because a cause that results in the death of many is not a cause to worship or idealize at all.

Israel and Palestine do not need the land of their origins or religions to know where they are from, nor to practice their faiths.

I used to think that apathy was the world's greatest evil. Today, I can understand the apathetic nature of my generation because I see the contradictions and the absurdities of political organizations in whole. And I know that our world was lost the moment the particular chains of government were forged.

CAMPUSTALK

Do you think the University could improve on anything?



"Yes, I think we need more parking spots in front of class buildings."



"I think they need to improve the registration process. Freshmen should be able to register sooner after the seniors and juniors do and not have to wait so long."



"Yes, I think we need vending machines like they have in hospitals with full meals to go so we don't always have to walk all the way to the union all the time."



"I think we should get a Panda Express in the cafeteria."



"I'm a commuter and I think they need to improve the parking for commuters."

Jessica Primes
History

Jared Ludwig
Broadcasting

The Northwest MISSOURIAN

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Nov. 18

Fire report, structure fire, 27,000 block of Glacier Road

Nov. 20

Marcia S. Tobin, 48, Maitland, Mo., larceny, 100 block of E. Fourth St.

Assault, ongoing investigation, 300 block of N. Market

Property damage, ongoing investigation, 500 block of E. First St.

Nov. 21

Thomas A. Sbisa, 21, Blue Springs, Mo., driving while intoxicated, failure to affix front license plate, 200 block of N. Buchanan

Joshua W. Moore, 21, Maryville, supplying alcohol to a minor, 1200 block of S. Main

Jeremy H. Clay, 20, Greentop, Mo., minor in possession, 300 block of E. Third St.

Nov. 22

Stephanie R. Burge, 19, Maryville, minor in possession, 300 block of E. Third St.

Ankit Khullar, 22, Maryville, driving while intoxicated, failure to maintain right half of roadway, 500 block of E. Seventh St.

ACCIDENTS

Karis L. Morrow, 33, Maryville, collided with **Mitchell P. Schmitz**, 19, Maryville, at the intersection W. Seventh and N. Mulberry.

Curtis W. Ware, 66, Lordsburg, N.M., wrecked at the intersection of W. South Ave. and U.S. Business HWY 71

Dustin J. Dowden, 18, Maryville, collided with **Matthew E. Pohren**, 25, Maryville, at the intersection of W. South Hills Drive and U.S. Business HWY 71

Dustin J. Dowden, 18, Maryville, failure to yield, W. South Hills Drive and U.S. Business HWY 71

CHURCH: Advent 'time to reflect on what we believe in'

Continued from A1

Mayfield said. "I also see depression to where you have people who have lost loved ones during this season or this may be the first holiday that they don't have their spouse."

While Mayfield does deal with churchgoers who have negative feelings, he claims he sees a whole bunch of different emotions including joy.

Another person enjoying helping people understand the message of Advent is sophomore Joe Barbosa. He is the co-chair of the fundraising team of the Northwest Newman Center. He said that Advent has a sense of excitement that a new year is associated with.

"It's a great time to reflect

on what we believe in," Barbosa said. "A lot of charity goes on during this time and a lot of faith and fellowship."

The Newman Center does take part in the Advent wreath and the lighting of the candles, but they have also added different events such as their Winter Dance at the end of the trimester before Christmas vacation.

Barbosa thinks that the message of Advent and Christmas is that there should be a positive outlook for the New Year.

"It should be a message of hope," Barbosa said. "Hope for a better future, hope for a peaceful future, hope for a better year, and hope for humanity as a whole that we may continue to work together."

CORSON: Iraq trip chance to learn outside classroom

Continued from A1

need to do their job. Three: Bring all the stuff back, and there's a lot of it, people and stuff. Four: Learn all I can learn, come back and be a better professor for it," Corson said.

Being an associate professor of geography, Corson has taken opportunities he has been handed and incorporated it into his teachings.

"There's a real symbiotic relationship between what I do and what I teach," Corson said. "I have a certain experience level; it's not all book learning. It adds a lot and makes me valuable as an instructor."

This won't be the first time Corson heads overseas, and very well may not be the last. When asked why, he has one simple, yet effective answer.

"I love soldiering. There's no greater privilege, or pleasure."

OBITUARIES

Mark Kosiba 1935-2009

Brother Mark "Lawrence" Kosiba, OSB, 74 of Conception, Mo., died on Monday, Nov. 30, 2009, at North Kansas City Hospital in Kansas City, Mo.

Born Wed., April 3, 1935 in Duncan, Neb., he was the son of the late Frank and Anna Mostek Kosiba.

He was a member of Conception Abbey since 1957. He worked as Abbey Infirmary from 1957-1965; Development Director, Standing Rock Indian Reservation, Fort Yates, N.D., from 1965-1986; Development Officer at Conception Abbey from 1986-2004 and the Abbey Porter from 2004-2009.

Surviving are his Monastic Community and sisters, Phyllis(Larry) Kush and Diane(Gary)Keeshan, and his sister-in law Vicky(Bob) Carstenes, all of Columbus, Neb., and by many loving nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by a brother Ray Kosiba,

and sisters, Mary Kumpf, Theresa Aherns, Angeline Brewer and Genevieve Kuta.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11a.m. on Friday at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception with Abbot Gregory Polan, OSB, officiating. A visitation will held at the Basilica at 6 p.m. follow by Vespers of the Dead at 7:15 p.m. on Thurs., Dec. 3, 2009.

Burial will be in St. Columba Cemetery, Conception, Mo.

Eldon Griffey II 1950-2009

Eldon G. Griffey II, age 59, Overland Park, Kan., formerly of Maryville, Mo., died on Wed., Nov. 18, 2009 at Kansas University Medical Center, Kansas City, Kan.

He was born Sept. 3, 1950 in Maryville, Mo.; the son of the late Eldon Glen and Frances Hainline Griffey and was raised in Wilcox, Mo. Eldon was

united in marriage to Deb-

rah Shell on June 26, 1997 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

He was a graduate of Maryville High School Class of 1969. Eldon was of the Christian Faith.

Eldon and his wife loved to travel, visiting Hawaii and taking several cruises.

Preceding him in death were sisters, Elaine Wilson, Joan Finney, Lavaughn Dredge and Father-in-law Raymond Shell.

He is survived by his wife Deborah of the home, Overland Park, Kan.; a step-daughter, Carri Schwartz; three step-grandchildren, Parker Day Schwartz, Matthew and Jacob Schwartz; a special friend of the couple Renee' Evans, Garden City, Mo.; his Mother-in-law Anita Shell; and Sisters and Brothers-in-law Sheila and Paul Christiansen, Overland Park, Kan., Marshall and Cara Shell, Maryville, Mo.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Griffey's body has been cremated. A celebration of Eldon's life will be held

at 1pm on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009 at the First Family Church, 7700 West 143rd St., Overland Park, Kan.

This will be followed by fellowship, friendship and food until 4 p.m., in honor of Eldon's life.

Virginia Halls 1943-2009

Virginia Diane (Enders) Halls, 66, Mason Ohio, (formerly of Nodaway County, Mo.), died Wed., Nov. 25, 2009 at Mason Christian Village.

She was born Feb. 11, 1943 in Pickering, Mo., the daughter of Eldon Douglas and Leila Evelyn (Mitchell) Enders. Diane was a graduate of Skidmore High School, Skidmore, Mo., and Nebraska Christian College. She was a homemaker.

Halls was preceded in death by her parents.

Survivors include three brothers: Raymond Enders, Williamsburg, Ohio; Kenneth Enders, Independence, Ky. and Lawrence Enders, Nixa, Mo., and several

nieces and nephews.

Visitation is 10 to 11a.m. Friday, Dec. 4, 2009 at Price Funeral Home, Maryville, Mo.

Funeral Services will be 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 4, 2009 at Price Funeral Home.

Burial is in Nodaway Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Maryville, Mo.

Memorial: Nebraska Christian College, 12550 S. 14th, Papillion, Neb. 68046.

Miriam DiMarco 1918-2009

Miriam (Martin) DiMarco, 91, Maryville, Mo., passed away quietly after battling a long illness, Tues., Nov. 24, 2009, at North Kansas City Hospital, Kansas City.

Miriam was born May 29, 1918 in Maryville, Mo., the daughter of Albert Russell "A.R" and Ida Elizabeth (Miller) Martin. She grew up in rural Maryville on the "Martin farm". She graduated from Maryville High School, and attended Northwest Missouri State University.

Survivors include her daughters: Anne Elizabeth Laws, Omaha, Neb. ; Janet Lynn DiMarco, Denver, Colo.; son: Charles Joseph DiMarco, Kansas City; a sister: Carrie Margaret Lyle, Ravenwood, Mo.; a brother: Bill Martin, Maryville; three grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009 at Price Funeral Home, Maryville.

Funeral Services are 1:30 p.m. Mon., Nov. 30, 2009 at Price Funeral Home Chapel with burial in Oak Hill Cemetery, Maryville, Mo.

Memorial contributions may be given to Chapter L, PEO Student Scholarship Fund or the Maryville Public.

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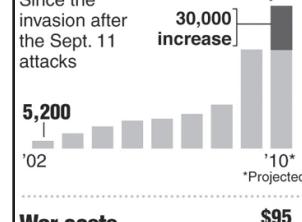
AFGHANISTAN WAR

Clinton, Gates defend President Obama's Afghan strategy before Senate

What's next in Afghanistan

President Barack Obama has ordered 30,000 more U.S. troops to Afghanistan and says some forces will begin withdrawing in July 2011.

U.S. troop levels



- New troops to be in Afghanistan by summer 2010
- About 5,000 will be trainers to work with Afghan military
- A Marine brigade from Camp Lejeune, N.C., will be first to arrive
- NATO nations asked to add 5,000 to their 39,000 troops already in Afghanistan

Source: White House, Congressional Research Service, National Priorities Project, McClatchy Washington Bureau, AP
 Graphic: Judy Treble, Lee Hulteng © 2009 MCT

By William Douglas
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's military and diplomatic team on Wednesday defended his decision to send another 30,000 U.S. troops to Afghanistan, telling lawmakers that the escalation is needed to prevent a Taliban takeover of the country, which could provide a sanctuary for al-Qaida.

Testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Adm. Michael Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, painted a dangerous and dire picture if Obama's plan isn't pursued.

"Rolling back the Taliban is now necessary, even if not sufficient, to the ultimate defeat of al-Qaida," Gates testified. "Taliban-ruled areas could in short order become, once again, a sanctuary for

al-Qaida as well as a staging area for resurgent militant groups on the offensive in Pakistan."

Clinton told her former colleagues on the committee: "Simply put, among a range of choices, this is the best way to protect our nation now and in the future. We face a range of difficult choices in Afghanistan and Pakistan. But the president's plan represents the best way we know to protect our nation today and in the future."

Obama faces tough sledding in selling his plan to Congress, where the Democratic majority is skeptical of the wisdom of U.S. forces remaining in Afghanistan and Iraq, and Republicans challenge his withdrawal timeline.

In his speech Tuesday night at West Point, N.Y., the president announced that he'll send an additional 30,000 troops to Afghanistan and begin withdrawing at least some American forces

by July 2011.

Clinton and Mullen said the troop increase would enable the U.S. military to degrade the Taliban's fighting capabilities, buy time to expand and properly train Afghan military and police forces so they can take over security responsibilities within 18 months, and improve the capabilities of the Afghan government.

Armed Services Committee members were largely supportive of Obama's decision to add troops, but several voiced displeasure with elements of his plan.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., grilled Gates and Mullen on whether the president's withdrawal date was arbitrary or would be based on conditions in Afghanistan.

"We don't want to sound an uncertain trumpet to our friends in the region," McCain said.

Gates responded that withdrawal would be con-

ditions-based. He said the July 2011 date was selected because it was two years after the Marines went into Helmand province in an aggressive push last summer.

"I think it's the judgment of all of us ... that we would be in a position, particularly in uncontested areas, where we would be able to begin that transition," he said.

Gates also stressed that a timeline is needed to "build a fire" under the Afghan government to step up and take charge of its country's fate and not be dependent on U.S. forces. He conceded that the other audience for the timeline is "the American people, who are weary after eight years of war."

Senate Armed Services Chairman Carl Levin, D-Mich., said he supported an accelerated transition to Afghan forces, but wondered "whether the rapid deployment of a large number of U.S. combat forces, without an adequate number of

Afghan security forces for our troops to partner with, serves the mission."

Some lawmakers questioned whether the Afghan government's corruption could be overcome. Critics say corruption is endemic throughout President Hamid Karzai's government. Karzai won a second term this year amid charges of voter fraud and corruption.

Clinton said that the administration had "real concerns" about corrupt officials in the Afghan government but added that Karzai seems committed to cleaning up the government in his new term.

"I witnessed President Karzai call for a new compact with his country," she said.

"He pledged to combat corruption, improve governance and deliver for the people of his country," she said. "His words were long in coming, but welcome. They must now be matched by action."

AFFAIR REVEALED

Tiger Woods apologizes to family

By Alan Schmadtke
The Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. — Tigers Woods acknowledged Wednesday morning that let down his family, saying he regrets "those transgressions with all of my heart."

Woods penned a statement Wednesday that he put on his Web site, offering his "profound apology" to his family and friends.

Us Weekly magazine published a cover story that says a cocktail waitress in Los Angeles carried on a 31-month affair with the married Woods, the world's top-ranked golfer.

"I have let my family down and I regret those transgressions with all of my heart," Woods said in the statement. "I have not been true to my values and the behavior my family deserves. I am not without faults and I am far short of perfect. I am dealing with my behavior and personal failings behind closed doors with my family. Those feelings should be

shared by us alone."

Woods has been thrust into the world of tabloid news, and he said Wednesday morning he doesn't care such spotlight. He was particularly dismayed about speculation that some domestic abuse between he and his wife, Elin Nordegren, was part of his car accident.

Woods crashed his 2009 Cadillac Escalade into a fire hydrant and into a neighbor's tree about 2:35 a.m. Friday.

"Although I am a well-known person and have made my career as a professional athlete, I have been dismayed to realize the full extent of what tabloid scrutiny really means," Woods said. "For the last week, my family and I have been hounded to expose intimate details of our personal lives. The stories in particular that physical violence played any role in the car accident were utterly false and malicious. Elin has always done more to support our family and shown more grace than anyone could possibly expect."

The rest of his statement:

"But no matter how intense curiosity about public figures can be, there is an important and deep principle at stake which is the right to some simple, human measure of privacy. I realize there are some who don't share my view on that. But for me, the virtue of privacy is one that must be protected in matters that are intimate and within one's own family. Personal sins should not require press releases and problems within a family shouldn't have to mean public confessions."

"Whatever regrets I have about letting my family down have been shared with and felt by us alone. I have given this a lot of reflection and thought and I believe that there is a point at which I must stick to that principle even though it's difficult."

"I will strive to be a better person and the husband and father that my family deserves. For all of those who have supported me over the years, I offer my profound apology."

GENERAL MOTORS

GM's Henderson resigns as chief executive

By Tim Higgins
Detroit Free Press

DETROIT — General Motors Co. Chief Executive Fritz Henderson has resigned, marking the loss of the company's second CEO this year, a source told the Detroit Free Press.

GM Chairman Ed Whitacre said in a brief statement to reporters that he will become interim CEO while a search is made for a permanent successor.

Whitacre said the board accepted Henderson's resignation today. He said Henderson had done a remarkable job.

In a statement, the Obama administration said, "This decision was made by the board of directors alone. The administration was not involved in the decision."

Henderson became GM's top executive in late March after the Obama administration asked CEO and Chairman Rick Wagoner to step down. The Obama auto task force briefly considered oust-

ing Henderson when it asked Wagoner to step down in March. But former task force chief Steven Rattner told the Bloomberg Washington Summit last month that finding a replacement for Henderson was considered too difficult at the time, with a new CEO search likely taking six months.

Henderson remained on as CEO as the automaker emerged from bankruptcy as a company whose majority owner is the U.S. government. The U.S. Treasury has pumped around \$50 billion into GM to keep it alive.

Gerald Meyers, a professor at the University of Michigan School of Business, has known Whitacre for years. Meyers described him as a demanding boss who "takes no prisoners."

Henderson, Meyers said, "didn't stand a chance with Ed as his boss. If it was Jesus Christ, he would have bowed him over."

Along with all of the changes, Whitacre, the former head of AT&T, was named

chairman.

On Nov. 13, former auto task force chief Steven Rattner explained the appointment of Henderson to CEO this way:

"We felt that in that period of disruption, to find somebody new that we would have the confidence, that would be able to succeed was very problematic and likely a six-month process at the minimum. And we liked Fritz, and we felt that Fritz had more energy and more drive. ... He was being groomed to be CEO, and he deserved a chance."

The Whitacre-led board undid a deal to sell GM's Opel division, a deal put together under Henderson's watch. Whitacre has also made public comments that have seemed contradictory to what Henderson's plans for the future entailed.

The announcement came on a day when GM announced its fourth month of year-over-year sales declines since emerging from bankruptcy.

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INTERNATIONAL WRESTLE LEAGUE

Wrestling gets such a bad rap for being cheesy and fake. This is something the entire community can get behind, not just mindless idiots hitting each other with trash cans and folding chairs.

- Austin Buckner

The 21st Century Killing Machine

By Philip Gruenwald
Missourian Reporter

If the words "pro wrestling" conjure up images of half-naked, sweaty grown men throwing tired punches while uttering cheesy one-liners and waving metal chairs around, Junior Austin Buckner would like a few words with you. Heck, he may just invite you to the next performance of his revolutionary International Wrestle League – that is, if his plans ever come to fruition.

A brainchild of Buckner and Dustin Wilson, the International Wrestle League is Buckner's way of combining charity, entertainment and several new forms of wrestling into one cheese-free package. It's a money-giving, publicity-gaining, field-revolutionizing machine, and it's set to roll through Maryville in a matter of months.

"Wrestling gets such a bad rap for being cheesy and fake," Buckner said. "This is something the entire community can get behind, not just mindless idiots hitting each other with trash cans and folding chairs."

Picture yourself four months from now on a Friday or Saturday night. You want to do something fun with friends that won't put you on the wrong side of the law. Curiosity gets the best of you and the evening finds you and 150 others in a small room of a building

on campus. The lights dim, except for those set on the octagonal roped stage in the center of the room. Two students take to the ring. What follows is an action-driven performance centered on two actors and an assumed conflict. The predetermined conflict is resolved with intricate and lightning-quick combat, all for the purpose of your enjoyment.

"It is a fine art," Buckner said. "It's kind of like a dance for grown men, but you're punching each other in the face."

Aside from being wrestling's first appearance to Maryville in recent memory, International Wrestle League is unique in its hybrid fighting technique. Buckner explains that the American style of wrestling is slow and predictable – punch, kick, hold, repeat. His wrestlers will be trained and taught a highly technical style of wrestling adopted mainly from the Japanese, but featuring elements found in English and Mexican styles of wrestling. Competitors'

dexterity will be challenged with a furious barrage of precision from their opponent. Monotony is not part of the act.

This will be our generation's answer to the cheesy Hulk Hogan-esque wrestling programs we were raised on. We're in college now, and we could care less what The Rock is cooking.

"We don't want to give the same thing you see on TV. We want our own style, our own characters," Buckner said.

Wilson sees the International Wrestle League creating a whole new fan base previously unseen at Northwest. He's also hopeful it will bring closet wrestling fans out of the wood -

work.

"I know there's got to be a good number of people who watch professional wrestling. And if not, these live performances will be a great way to introduce someone to it," Wilson said.

Wrestling has been largely influential to Buckner and

Wilson their whole lives.

Buckner was three months old when he attended his first professional wrestling match – an accident, he admits. Yet at a young age some passion first took root, and it's been growing and blossoming ever since. Buckner started wrestling at age

13 and has received professional training for the last two years.

Both Buckner and Wilson anticipate wrestling professionally after attending World League Wrestling, a wrestling institution in Eldon, Missouri. International Wrestle

League is just a step along the way – a preoccupation while earning a their respective degrees at Northwest.

Pulling this all together is Buckner's philanthropic heart, oddly packaging the League as an act of benevolence.

"I want to do it for charity. Six shows a year would be a great way to give back in an entertaining way," he said.

The missing ingredient in this recipe for success is Northwest's involvement. A faculty sponsor, asked to remain anonymous, is set in place. Buckner now needs a venue, a time slot and a green light to make this happen. Buckner, Wilson and six others are committed to the goal. They even have a Facebook page: International Wrestle League.

"All of my wrestlers are ready. We're all itching to get into the ring," Buckner said.

This self-proclaimed "21st Century Killing Machine" is prepared to tag-team with Wilson and knock out wrestling's negative stereotypes.

Still, with a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face, Buckner is really offering a chance for the young-at-heart to revisit a past longing. And with charity in mind, violence has never felt so right.



photo by mallory dahmer | missourian photographer

JUNIOR AUSTIN BUCKNER is training to become a professional wrestler after graduating. He and senior Dustin Wilson have started their own wrestling group, the International Wrestle League.

Top 3 picks

By Brian Johnson
 Features Editor

Coming to Theaters

"Brothers" hits theaters Friday. The movie follows a soldier (Tobey Maguire) who gets lost while fighting in Afghanistan leaving his wife (Natalie Portman) and children alone. His brother (Jake Gyllenhaal) then steps in to fill the void in their life. The potential for this movie is in the casting. Portman has proven to be one of the more capable actresses of her generation. Maguire looks to steal the show, however, with his disturbed post-war psychological state and frightening physical appearance. This movie will be an actors' delight.

New DVD to Check Out

"Terminator Salvation" arrived on stands on Tuesday. While this movie was certainly not the most put together movie of the series, it certainly provided plenty of raw action backed by a multi-million dollar budget. Christian Bale fans are sure to check out this movie just because of his notorious outburst that gave him YouTube fame. However, he certainly holds his own, as he does in every role, as John Connor who leads a group of humans in the war against the machines.

New Video Game to try

"Assassin's Creed II" is definitely worth a rent. While this game has been out for a couple weeks, we do need something that can break this "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2" hype. The game follows Desmond Miles continuing his destiny of being an assassin as his ancestors had done before him. The highly anticipated game has already gotten rave reviews from the gaming world and it has definitely lived up to expectations. Gamers can expect an improved striking system along with additional weapons and a story line combining fantasy and history with real people including Niccolo Machiavelli.

STROLLER

Your Man wants a real dead week

I hate to point it out but finals are right around the corner. Let me be the first to say it: I hate finals. I don't just hate the actual taking of the test, I hate the whole thing; the studying, the stress and the time it takes away from playing "Left 4 Dead 2."

The worst part of finals is the overload. It seems like just when you have the most important tests of the year, there is always that jerk professor that piles on a project that's 50 percent of your grade. The solution: institute dead week before finals. Look at every major university and you will see that everybody has dead week.

Dead week is not where the campus is overran by zombies and you have to fight for your life with three of your friends, although that would be cool. Dead week is the week before finals where there are no tests, no projects and no stupid pop quizzes. Classes are optional and used like study sessions.



The Stroller

The only way for a dead week to have any chance at success is if Student Senate makes it mandatory and there is some recourse for it. SAC could even come up with some real cool punishments for professors that break the dead week rule. A polar plunge in Colden sounds awfully menacing, or we could just lock them in a zombie infested Administration building and make them fight their way to the exit.

Why we don't have a

dead week is beyond me. It would give professors a week to catch up on grades, and students a week to cram all the material they missed while skipping classes for video games. I think professors want people to succeed instead of setting them up for overload failure, or maybe they really are trying to make us into zombies.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of *The Northwest Missourian*.

FOR RELEASE DECEMBER 3, 2009

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis



By Barry C. Silik

12/3/09

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

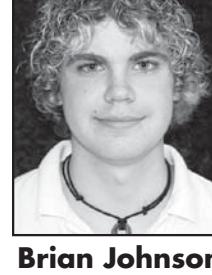
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RAIN	CATS	SAND	DOGS									
ERMA	TRALA	EVEN										
SNAP	EATEN	REST										

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REVIEW

John Mayer has winning strategy on new album



Brian Johnson
 Features Editor

It seems fitting that the opening track of John Mayer's new album, "Battle Studies," contains the sound of a symphony tuning up, because Mayer has proven he has enough talent to fill a symphony.

On his latest release, Mayer has gone back into a melodic pop direction reminiscent of his debut "Room for Squares" while still retaining his blues-tinted guitar licks. "Battle Studies" has shown to be a hybrid of Mayer's entire catalog up to this point.

The opening track, "Heartbreak Warfare," is an eclectic, steady and echoing window into Mayer's heart. It is undoubtedly one of the best songs on the new

album. It shows that the production on Mayer's work has certainly gone into a new and exciting direction with emphasis on vocal effects, while still keeping the songs relatively stripped down.

The critics of Mayer's credibility as a guitarist have seemed to be silenced in recent years and they will be even more silenced with tracks like "Crossroads." The song is a cover of a song that was popularized by one of the greatest blues guitarists of all time, Robert Johnson.

Mayer put his own spin on the song by giving it a jam-band Dave Matthews-inspired sound. Yet he still stays loyal to the guitar-driven blues soul of the song which shows that he is a bluesman first.

"Crossroads" was a highlight of the album, it does leave some of Mayer's guitar-hungry fans wanting more, because it really is a stand-alone song compared to the rest of the album. Some might see this as a negative aspect of the album but it really shows

that Mayer isn't just a new guitar god. He's growing as an artist and is willing to try new things such as being minimal in musicality and focusing more on lyrical content.

The song that is destined to be the most popular is "Half of My Heart" for the simple reason that it is a duet with country music's favorite sweetheart, Taylor Swift. However, even if the song didn't have Swift's teenage tones, it would still be a great song. If there was ever an example of Mayer's maturity as a songwriter, it's "Half of My Heart."

The song's lyrics deal with how Mayer keeps falling in and out of love with a girl (my money says it's

about Jennifer Aniston). The track has the melody of a '70s love song, but it's still somehow fresh thanks to the unique voice of Mayer. The loud then soft transition into the lyric, "can't keep loving you," will send shivers up the backs of his adoring female fans.

John Mayer is no longer strictly an acoustic, sensitive ladies man, nor is he an electric bluesman paying tribute to Stevie Ray Vaughn. He is a fully developed musician that can write songs that cover all types of grounds and can be as loud or as soft as he wants to be. Mayer has certainly hit the books with "Battle Studies" and received a more than passing grade.

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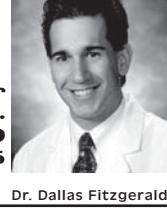
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THE EXTRA POINT

COLUMN

'Hounds, 'Cats successful because of unfaltering desire to compete

Anyone who has ever been involved in sports knows what separates the average player or team from the great ones. The great ones are driven by desire, the average ones envy that desire.

In 1982, the town celebrated its first high school football state title. In '98 and '99, Bearcat fans were elated with the school's only two national championship victories.

Both teams have flirted with championship seasons in recent years, and there is no doubt in my mind that the reason the teams fell short of their championships was not due to a lack of desire.

No, making the title game consecutive years, like the 'Hounds, took tremendous

desire. Making the title game four consecutive years, like the 'Cats, takes an unfathomable amount of desire. No one ever said sports were fair, but falling short of the title seems to fuel the fire each and every winter and spring as they begin preparing for the next fall.

Desire can spread through a team like wild fire if the team truly sets their sights on one single unifying goal.

Every team has that player or group of players who show up on game day and give their 'rah-rah' speeches and scream



Tony Botts

Community Sports Editor

and shout. However, you can always tell who has the unrelenting desire, and who is flat-out faking it.

I know he may be one of the least favorite sports figures these days, but Tim Tebow has enough desire to bring the

Titanic back from its resting place at the bottom of the ocean if he wanted to.

He talks the talk and walks the walk better than anyone in college football.

While he may be the poster boy for every coaches dream leader, he didn't have to experience a heartbreaking loss in a

national title game, nonetheless four title games in a row.

Desire is abundant in this town when it comes to athletics. The high school had numerous teams capture district and conference titles, including the volleyball team that was two games away from capturing its first state volleyball title. The football team captured its second title in school history, overcoming their three-point loss in last year's title game.

Having the opportunity to live in a town eight months out of the year in which the teams consistently find themselves on that edge of greatness is not just fun, but you can learn a thing or two about desire. Not just desire in athletics, but desire in life.

SPORTS STAFF GAME PICKS

Brian "The Bulldog's" picks

Prediction record (18-20)

NCAA Lock

Cincinnati at Pittsburgh — 'Cats The Bearcats need this game to keep their hopes alive of hopping over TCU and making the National Championship once Nebraska beats Texas.

NCAA Upset

Nebraska vs. Texas — Big Red

The Huskers will not be the most talented team on the field Saturday, but they can come away victorious. Colt McCoy will face the toughest defense he has seen all season and he shouldn't expect to run all over the front four of Nebraska. Zac Lee and the offense will need to pull something out of their sleeves to pull off the upset, though. Watch for Texas native, freshman running back, Rex Burkhead to make a big impact against the Horns. Suh deserves to end his season in a BCS Bowl. Go Big Red.

NFL Lock

Denver at K.C. — Broncos

The Broncos need this game to start rebuilding confidence after fizzling from a hot start.

NFL Upset

Dallas at NYG — Giants

Both teams are super streaky, but I think the Giants will be the hot team at home this week.

Jason's Picks

Prediction record (18-20)

NCAA Lock

Florida v. Alabama — Florida It has never been so painful to make a pick until this one. I can't believe I actually did this. Sports Gods please forgive me.

NCAA Upset

Fresno St. at Illinois — Fresno

I know absolutely nothing about this game, but it fit the spread so that's good enough for me.

NFL Lock

NY Jets at Buffalo — Jets

The Bills got lucky last week in beating Miami 31-14, but they can't do it again. Mark Sanchez will get his act together and put the Bills out of their misery. New York's defense is good enough to slow down Ryan Fitzpatrick and a surprisingly effective Terrell Owens.

NFL Upset

Tenn. at Indianapolis — Titans

Vince Young has the Titans on a roll. Benching him at the beginning of the year was the best thing that could have happened to him. Chris Johnson is running like a mad man and Indy won't be able to stop him. It's going to be a shoot out and Young should come away holding the smoking gun. Plus, Seth got mad that I picked this one against him.

Tony's Picks

Prediction record (5-7)

NCAA Lock

Oregon St. at Oregon — Oregon This may be one of the only significant games this week that has any actual meaning to some fans. The Ducks surprised many by knocking off USC, as did the Beavers. This game should feature two high flying and high scoring offenses. Ducks win a close rivalry game.

NCAA Upset

Georgia Tech at Clemson — Tigers

Both teams feature great weapons in the running game. With Heisman votes on the line, C.J. Spiller must have a great game. Spiller and the Tigers will put the heat on Tech's defense and bring home the conference championship.

NFL Lock

Baltimore at Green Bay — Packers

Baltimore seemed to struggle with the Steelers third string quarterback at times last week, but still managed to pull off the emotional win. Green Bay is coming off one of their best defensive performances against a banged up Lions team. The Packers squeak by with a win.

NFL Upset

Houston at Jacksonville — Jags

The Jaguars will give Maurice Jones-Drew a heavy workload against the young Texans defense. Jags pound out a tough victory at home.

Seth's Picks

Prediction record (13-19)

NCAA Lock

Arizona U at USC — USC USC's team has been overwhelming this year, but they still have too much talent to get beat by Arizona. USC wins easy.

NCAA Upset

Florida v. Alabama — Bama

Both teams have looked lackluster recently, but still both are considered the two top teams in the country. With both squads boasting key players on both sides of the ball, this game is going to come down to who wants it more. Bama shows their dominance by rolling the Gators.

NFL Lock

Tenn. at Indy — Colts

Vince Young has been fantastic since reclaiming his starting spot, but there's only one problem- Peyton Manning is the opposite QB. Sorry Vince, your streak ends.

NFL Upset

Denver at Kansas City — KC

I know I'm a fool, and I probably just jinxed my boys, but what can I say I am smelling an upset down at Arrowhead. Charles and Chambers have been electric, and have given life to a stagnant offense. Now, if Center Rudy Niswanger could just learn to snap the ball, we'd be fine.

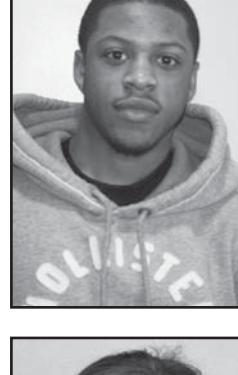
AROUND THE CAMPUS

What are the Bearcats chances of making it to the championship?



"I think the chances are very high. We have a hard working team and I believe we have improved since previous years."

Alison Wright
Elementary Education



"I think the chances of them making it are very high. We have a lot of great talent."

Frank Jackson
Pre-engineering



"I think it's awesome! Because think about it - how many other teams can go that far into the playoffs 5 years in a row?"

Kara Rieger
Music



"I think the chances are pretty solid. Coach T and the team have a strong record when it comes to pulling it off in the playoffs and this year is the year the big game goes our way."

Joe Masciovechio
Physical Education
K-12



"They have a very solid chance with the three headed monster on offence and the way the defense plays. I like our chances Saturday."

Jason Romano
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GIRLS' BASKETBALL

'Hounds shoot Lafayette out of the game

By Jason Lawrence
Asst. Sports Editor

The Spoofhounds girls' basketball team picked up right where they left off last season.

The 'Hounds finished last year 18-8 with a double overtime loss to Skyline High School in the quarterfinal round of the state playoffs.

They opened up the game by scoring instantly off of the tip on their way to a 61-35 victory over St. Joseph Lafayette on Tuesday night.

"It feels good; it's been an anxious off-season after the season we had last year and the way it ended," head coach Grant Hageman said. "By the way the girls played, I think they were excited to get back out there and kind of show people what they can do, so it was a great first game."

The 'Hounds jumped out to

a 17-9 first quarter lead. Senior point guard Meridee Scott put up nine of her 11 points in the first quarter.

Maryville stepped on the gas in the second quarter and held Lafayette to just eight points in the quarter as they pushed their lead to 31-17.

The 'Hounds forced turnovers and pushed the pace without using the press, like they did last season.

I thought the defense played really well tonight," Hageman said. "I think the only thing we could have done better was sometimes we didn't rotate on the back side and that hurt our rebounding a little bit, but as far as guarding the ball I think we did a good job and stayed out of foul trouble."

The only negative thing Hageman saw in the first half was the poor free throw shooting. The 'Hounds only hit 4 of

10 free throws.

"We haven't emphasized it (free throw shooting) as much as we probably should," Hageman said. "You give up shooting to work on something else. Now we've played the first game, we found our weakness, so we'll go back to practice and put some more free throws up."

Junior guard Molly Steins took over in the second half, scoring 13 of her game-high 17 points in the final 16 minutes.

Maryville went on an 11-2 run to start the fourth quarter and increase their lead to 54-29.

Lafayette fought back going on their own 6-2 run to prompt Hageman to bring a couple starters back into the game for the final few minutes.

Senior guard Hailey Kenkel scored four of her eight points in the last minute of the game

to put it completely out of reach for Lafayette.

Junior guard Mataya Wooten chipped in 15 points for the Spoofhounds. Oceonna Thomas led the Irish with 11.

The Spoofhounds hit three-pointers in the game as their shooting was the biggest key to victory, Hageman said.

"Part of it was we were moving the ball well," Hageman said. "When you have good ball movement and passing, it's much harder to guard. We were also doing a good job of finding people when they were open and we were getting them open because we were setting good screens. We were excited about that and it always helps when shots are falling."

The 'Hounds take on St. Joseph LeBlond at 8 p.m. tonight at Savannah High School in the second round of the Savannah Tournament.

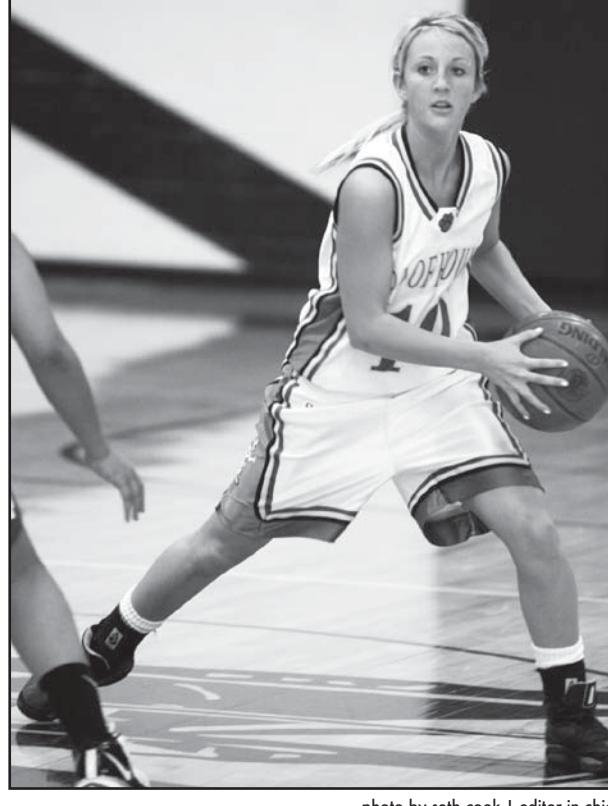


photo by seth cook | editor in chief

JUNIOR POINT GUARD Mataya Wooten looks for an open teammate in the 'Hounds 61-35 victory over Lafayette. Wooten was second on the team in scoring with 15 points.

BOYS' BASKETBALL

SENIOR FORWARD ADAM THOMPSON snags an offensive rebound from an opposing St. Joseph Central player. The 'Hounds defeated Central 65-33.



photo by seth cook
editor in chief

Spoofhounds blow out Central, await a bigger Staley team

By Trey Williams
Missourian Reporter

The Maryville boys basketball team started the season off right with a convincing 65-33 win over St. Joseph Central Monday night in the 81st Savannah Invitational.

The 'Hounds looked good on offense and defense, but head coach Mike Kuwitzky thinks there are still some things they could improve on.

"We moved the ball pretty well on offense," Kuwitzky said. "Our defense wasn't

bad, but it still needs some improvement."

After starting out with a bang, the 'Hounds offense was not much of a problem as they outscored Central by 24 points in the first half. They controlled the game early and kept the momentum throughout the second half.

The 'Hounds had eight out of 12 players come up with points to help get the win.

Senior guard Josh Elliott led the team with 21 points followed by senior center Keenan Joiner, who scored

18.

"We came out really focused and ready to play; and that was big," Elliott said.

Kuwitzky and the 'Hounds said they will be preparing to play Staley High School next in the tournament. Staley is a bigger team than Maryville so the 'Hounds might have to make some adjustments on both the offensive and defensive side of the ball.

"We're definitely going to have to be a little bit more under control and not run as

wild against Staley," Kuwitzky said.

If anything is going to be a problem for the 'Hounds it will be Staley's size advantage over Maryville. Kuwitzky said they will really have to focus on boxing out and closing up the lanes in order to keep Staley from killing them from inside.

"Staley is pretty good," Elliott said. "But we played them last year in this tournament and we beat them."

The results from Wednesday's game were unavailable as of press time.

NORTHWEST

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Jake Soy



Sophomore wide receiver Jake Soy recorded a season-high 11 receptions for 136 yards and a touchdown in the Bearcats' 21-20 victory over Central Washington on Saturday. Soy's touchdown grab knotted the game up at 14. His 23 touchdowns and 1,393 receiving yards lead the nation.

Abby Henry



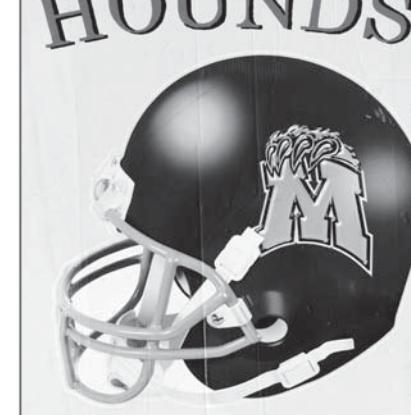
Sophomore guard Abby Henry scored a career-high 15 points, 12 of which came in the second half, in a 66-57 win over Missouri-St. Louis. In the following game Henry increased her career high to 23 points in an 82-69 loss to Colorado State-Pueblo last Friday.

Molly Steins



Junior point guard Molly Steins led the Spoofhounds with 17 points in the 'Hounds' first game of the season. Maryville defeated St. Joseph Lafayette 61-35 in the first round of the Savannah Tournament. Steins scored 13 of her points in the second half.

Maryville Football



The Spoofhounds finished off its season as Class 2 State Champions, the first football championship since 1982. The 'Hounds went 14-1 and defeated Brentwood 35-0 to claim the title last Friday at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis. They were flawless offensively and the defense only allowed 207 total yards.

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NORTHWEST FOOTBALL

NW FOOTBALL



SENIOR WIDE RECEIVER Nick Rhodes lets out a triumphant yell following the Bearcats' 21-20 victory over Central Washington in the quarterfinals.

'Cats survive Central Washington, head to semi-finals for fifth straight year

By Jason Lawrence
Asst. Sports Editor

The Bearcats are moving on to the national semifinals for the fifth straight year following a 21-20 victory over No. 1 Central Washington last Saturday.

"I think that we learned that we can play under some real tough circumstances," head coach Mel Tjeerdsma said. "Obviously, the win against Washburn was big, but that was at home. This was on the road, this was against the No. 1 team in the country, we had a lot of things going against us. Somehow, somehow, we found a way to win. That's a great sign for a football team. I hope we can build on that confidence wise."

Northwest will face California (Pa.) in the semi-finals at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Bearcat Stadium. The game will be nationally televised on CBS College Sports Network.

"It's exciting, they're all exciting," Tjeerdsma said.

"I'm just excited because we're at home. I think it's a great opportunity to showcase our university, our community, our fans and our football team."

California defeated West Liberty 57-35 to win their third straight Super Region 1 title and advance to round four.

Vulcan quarterback Josh Portis passed for 318 yards and five touchdowns in the quarterfinal match up.

"They have some really great athletes," senior safety Myles Burnsides said. "We just need to limit the big plays and stay over top of them. They have some great receivers and a great quarterback who can hurt you with both his arm and his feet. We have to contain him."

The Vulcans also forced three West Liberty turnovers in the first half as they jumped out to a 43-7 lead.

"We just need to, number one, take care of the football," junior quarterback Blake Bolles said. "And

number two, execute. We didn't execute very well in the first half of the Central Washington game, that's why we got off to a little bit of a slow start. Basically, we need to just control the things that we can control and execute."

Senior defensive tackle Tyler Roach saved the 'Cats on Saturday by recording his fourth blocked kick of the year.

Roach blocked what would have been the game-tying extra point with six seconds left in the game.

Tyler's blocked four this season," Tjeerdsma said. "That was a picture of the other three. That wasn't an accident. These guys are good at it. It's not scheme, it's effort, that's all it is. It was a great effort on their part."

Central Washington drove down the field on their first drive and took a quick 7-0 lead.

The 'Cats offense didn't put up any points in the first half, but sophomore

linebacker Chad Kilgore returned an interception 25 yards for a score on Washington's second drive.

"Our defense after the first two series did an outstanding job, gave us great field position," Tjeerdsma said. "We got a defensive touchdown and that's always huge. When you play a great defense like Central Washington you have to have some help with special teams or defense scoring and we got it today."

Central Washington responded on the ensuing drive with a 12-yard score on the ground. Washington held a 14-7 lead for the remainder of the first half.

Northwest scored on its first two drives of the second half, taking a 21-14 lead into the final minutes.

On the first drive, Bolles hit sophomore wide receiver Jake Soy for a 15-yard touchdown. Soy still leads the nation with 23 receiving scores.

Bolles completed 31 of

40 passes for 295 yards. Soy's 136 receiving yards give him 1,393 yards on the season, 50 more than the previous Northwest record.

Bolles tied Chris Greisen's school record and the MIAA record by throwing his 38th touchdown of the season, this one, a 19-yard strike to Jordan Simmons, put the 'Cats ahead for good.

"We felt like we weren't playing aggressive football, we were playing more not to lose than playing to win," Tjeerdsma said. "I thought our first two drives in the second half said a lot about that."

Central Washington got the ball back with 1:11 remaining in the game and began marching down the field. Cole Morgan hooked up with Mike Waller for a 15-yard touchdown pass.

Then came Roach's block. Northwest recovered the ensuing onside kick and kneeled down to escape with the victory.

FOOTBALL SATURDAYS

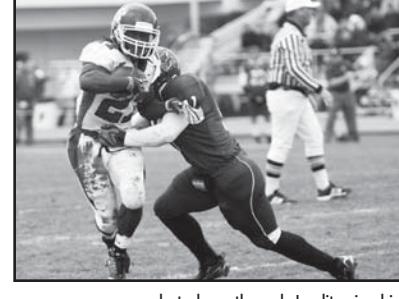


photo by seth cook | editor in chief

SENIOR RUNNING BACK LaRon Council breaks a tackle on his way to 102 yards in the 'Cats' 21-20 victory over Central Washington. Council went over 100 yards for the sixth time this season.

SCORE BY QUARTER

(12-1) 7 7 0 6 — 20

(12-1) 7 0 14 0 — 21

WEEKEND PREVIEW

Northwest and California (Pa.) have never met before.

The Bearcats have won 15 straight postseason games leading to the national championship.

Mel Tjeerdsma is the winningest postseason Division II coach (27).

Jake Soy leads the nation with 23 touchdowns and 1,393 receiving yards on 79 catches.

Northwest has won nine straight postseason home games dating back to 2004 and is 16-3 at home in the playoffs overall.

Blake Bolles is tied with Chris Greisen for most touchdown passes in a single season in team and MIAA history with 38.

The 'Cats are 29-1 at Bearcat Stadium since 2005.

Northwest has never lost a semi-final game (6-0). Five of the six, including the last three have been played in Maryville.

Tyler Roach has blocked seven kicks in his career. Four of them have come this season.



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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

MIAA play kicks off with massive upset

By Brian Bosiljevac
Sports Editor

The women's basketball season started conference play off better than anyone could have expected.

The young Bearcat squad took down the seventh ranked team in the country, Emporia State 88-76.

The 'Cats haven't beaten the Lady Hornets since 2004.

"They are the toughest match up for us in the conference because of their speed and their three point shooting," head coach Gene Steinmeyer said. "I'm just glad we didn't get drilled

because of what it would've done to our confidence. I'm more worried about the back end of things. Even when we're up six at half I'm just hoping we can stay in the ball game because these guys are really good. I mean really good."

The Hornets loss to the 'Cats is there first loss of the season excluding and exhibition game against Division I Kansas.

Junior Gentry Dietz led the way for the 'Cats bringing in 20 points, six rebounds and three blocks.

Junior Gabby Curtis followed Dietz with 15 points.

"At the beginning of

my game my shots weren't really falling," Curtis said. "My teammates picked me up though and told me to keep shooting. So I have to give a lot of credit to my teammates, helping me boost my confidence back up."

The Bearcats were helped out in a major way off the bench, who chipped in 33 of Northwest's points.

"Alexis Boeh came in and got some huge points for us," Steinmeyer said. "We've been begging her to not hesitate when she shoots and tonight she just grabbed it and shot it. Those were huge points for us and it gave Gentry a chance to

rest."

Freshman Emily Hauder was one rebound shy of a double-double off the bench. She scored 14 points and added two steals to go with her nine rebounds.

Steinmeyer isn't reading too much into the team's biggest upset in two years.

"I think we are 1-0 in league, that's all," Steinmeyer said. "There are 19 games left. We just came off a tournament where we only scored 53 points a game. Who would have thought we'd only put up 53 against Metro State... and then come in and put 88 up on the number seven team in



photo by lori frankenfield | chief photographer

JUNIOR POST GENTRY Dietz drives to the basket in the 'Cats' 88-76 victory over Emporia State. Dietz was 8 of 17 from the field and led the team with 20 points.

the country. Basketball is a funny game sometimes."

The 'Cats will remain at

home to take on Washburn at 2:30 p.m. Saturday in Bearcat Arena.

BEARCATS VS EMPORIA ST

JUNIOR FORWARD ARUNAS Simanavicius lays it in for two of his nine points. The Bearcats fell 86-81 to Emporia State in the MIAA opener.



photo by lori frankenfield
chief
photographer

MEN'S BASKETBALL

'Cats bench comes up big in blowouts, conference play awaits

By Jason Lawrence
Asst. Sports Editor

The Bearcats kept the offense rolling as they picked up two more wins and moved their record to 4-0 on the season.

The 'Cats scored 203 points in its two games last week and five players have scored in double figures in all four games this season.

"The offense is predicated upon moving the ball and going inside-out," McCollum said. "The guys seem to buy into that type of system. Obviously, when you play fast, you're going to put up a lot of points, so that helps to balance out the scoring as well."

The 'Cats lead the MIAA in scoring at 96.8 points per game and is outscoring opponents

by an average of 34 points per contest, also tops in the conference.

Northwest recorded a 99-70 win over Baker University Nov. 24 behind a career-high 25 points from junior forward Elijah Allen.

"I thought we played very well in that game," McCollum said. "They're a very good offensive team. That was a very good game for us to go against a good offensive team."

Allen scored 17 first half points and helped the 'Cats jump out to an 54-32 halftime lead. They led 33-14 with just over six minutes left in the first half.

"We came out and put them away early," McCollum said. "Then obviously made it through the rest of the game up

quite a bit."

Senior guard Girod Adams chipped in 15 points, six assists and six rebounds against Baker.

The play of the 'Cats' bench has also been a bright spot so far this season. Northwest's bench outscored Baker's 31-5.

Freshman guard DeShaun Cooper added 15 points and eight assists off the bench.

"We like him to come off the bench, he brings a different dynamic than anyone else we have," McCollum said. "He can get into the paint, he brings a lot of energy and causes a lot of mismatches. We like him off the bench and Jake Petersen and Jake Reinders have also been great off the bench for us."

The bench came through again in the 104-67 rout of

Graceland last Saturday, scoring 48 points.

Adams scored a career-high 24 points to lead five 'Cats in double figures. Sophomore guard Jake Petersen also added a career-high 17 points.

Cooper handed out six assists to go along with his 15 points off the bench. Allen scored 13 points and junior forward Arunas Simanivicius added 10 in his first start of the season.

Northwest scored the first 13 points of the game and forced 15 turnovers in the first half. The 'Cats led 59-29 at the break.

"We came out and for the first 15 or 20 minutes played some of the best defense we have all year," McCollum said.

"Then after that, we kind of coasted into a victory."



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- Bob Dole-Gamma-Omicron (Kansas); Former Senator and Presidential Candidate R-Kansas



photo by lori frankenfield | chief photographer

MARYVILLE FANS CHEER on the Spoofhounds at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis. Dedicated fans made the 345 mile trek from Maryville to St. Louis to watch the Spoofhounds' 35-0 Class 2 State Championship game victory.

AT HOME IN THE DOME



photo by lori frankenfield | chief photographer

SENIOR RUNNING BACK Derek DeMott breaks a tackle from a Brentwood opponent at the Show-Me Bowl in St. Louis at the Edward Jones Dome.



photo by lori frankenfield | chief photographer

SENIOR FULLBACK ANTHONY Groumoutis prepares for a collision with a Brentwood defender. Groumoutis was part of the 'Hounds three-headed running attack that carried them to the State Championship.



photo by lori frankenfield
chief photographer

RUNNING BACK
DEREK DeMott
hoists the Class 2
State Champion-
ship trophy with
a teammate.
DeMott scored two
touchdowns on the
ground and ran
for 73 yards in the
35-0 victory over
Brentwood.



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SPOOFHOUND FOOTBALL | STATE CHAMPIONS

SCORE BY QUARTER

(14-1) 14 6 8 0 — 35



(12-2) 0 0 0 0 — 0

TEAM STATISTICS

Maryville	Brentwood	
348	Total yards	207
55	Total plays	41
237	Rushing yards	103
47	Rushing attempts	22
1-0	Fumbles-lost	0-0
111	Passing yards	104
8	Passing attempts	19
0-0	Sacks-yards lost	0-0
6-8-0	Comp.-Att.-Int.	6-19-1
0	Punts-yards	2-42.0
6.3	Off. yards per play	5.05
17	First Downs	9
1-5	Penalties-yards	7-31
1-6	Int-yards	0-0
6 of 10	Third downs	5 of 10
4 of 4	Fourth Downs	0 of 3

“It was just a business trip for us. We had to go there and take care of business. We knew what it was like last year and go there and lose by three points. No person on this team wanted that to happen this year.”

- Senior Clint Thompson

ROUND II



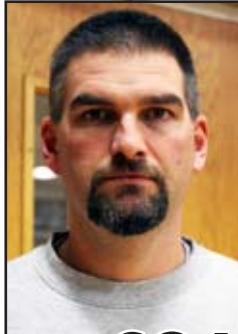
STANDOUTS OF THE GAME



GAVIN TALMADGE

179 all purpose yards, TD

OFFENSE



CHRIS HOLT

Coached the 'Hounds to back-to-back state title appearances, only losing three games in the two seasons.

COACH



TYLER WALTER

Had an interception to set up a touch-down scoring drive in the 3rd quarter

DEFENSE

STAT OF THE GAME

The Spoofhounds' defense held the Eagles rushing attack to 103 yards, while the offense converted all four of the team's fourth down attempts, never punting in the game.

SENIOR FULLBACK ANTHONY Groumoutis storms through a pair of Brentwood tacklers. Groumoutis gained 38 yards on nine carries in the 35-0 victory.

Maryville brings home state championship title

By Tony Botts
Comm. Sports Editor

Every August, the town of Maryville seems to come to life from its quiet, sleepy summer. The students return from their four-month hiatus to pack the dorms and the town's apartments.

While the various restaurants, bars and local businesses welcome back the waves of green and white clad Bearcats, the town gears up for a different form of excitement; high school football.

In recent years, the Spoofhounds have been hard at work building a football powerhouse. The 'Hounds have been putting in their time on the field and in the weight room during the sweltering days of summers and the bone chilling days of winter.

The journey to their second state title in school history started well before the actual start of the season, 15 weeks ago. For the players, this season started just moments after the final seconds of last year's state title game ticked away; while the taste of defeat was fresh in their mouths.

“It put a bad taste in every-

body’s mouth that it was supposed to be a ‘build-up’ year,” senior Clint Thompson said.

Opening the season with a loss to Hickman Mills did not help the team win over any critics, but rolling off 14 straight wins proved the 'Hounds were not settling for mediocrity.

Pre-season expectations did not have the 'Hounds competing for the title in the Midland Empire—the same Midland Empire that was swept clean, 7-0, by the young men adorned in green and yellow.

Head coach Chris Holt said throughout this season, the players played with chips on their shoulders because of low expectations from individuals outside of the high school and the football program.

Once districts rolled around, the 'Hounds were hitting on all cylinders, running through district play with fairly little resistance. They notched wins sporting 40-point spreads, including an 84-6 throttling of rival Bishop LeBlond.

The much anticipated play-off time came and went, featuring an uncompetitive game against Plattsburg, a shootout against a very athletic Hogan Prep squad, and two defensive

juggernauts meeting in both the Lawson game and the semi-final match up with a playoff rejuvenated Lamar team.

With a full year to mull over the three-point loss in the Edward Jones Dome last season, the 'Hounds and the returning senior class took a professional approach to this year's trip down I-70.

“It was just a business trip for us,” Thompson said. “We had to go there and take care of business. We knew what it was like last year and go there and lose by three points. No person on this team wanted that to happen this year.”

Holt said that he and the 'Hounds were no strangers to long hours spent on charter buses. In the last two years, the 'Hounds have made numerous overnight trips late in the season, and they have been nothing but business-like.

“They have a good time,” Holt said. “But, they know what they’re on the bus for, and our kids handled that situation real well.”

Once the final seconds elapsed from this year's championship, there was no doubt left how well the 'Hounds handled the bright lights of

the dome.

After posting the shutout, the cheerleaders were given the honor of presenting the team captains with the Class 2 State Championship plaque that eluded the team the previous season.

“I would have gladly had a state title either last year or this year,” senior Evan Johnson said. “To me, it’s more exciting this year since this is the climax of my senior season.”

For Thompson, bringing home the state title runs in the family. His father, Tim, was a member of the 1982 State championship team. For Tim, no words could describe the father-son feat.

“It’s one of those things you can’t really explain,” Tim said. “It’s priceless.”

While both father and son now own a state title, Clint was sure of one thing; he will have the bigger ring in the house.

While the season may officially be over, Holt and the players all agreed that it might take a while for reality to sink in.

Critics can say what they want, but there is one title that they will never be able to take away from this year's 'Hounds; State champs.

GAME WINNING DRIVES

1st Qtr- 7:26- Derek DeMott, 3 yard run- the drive went 69 yards in 10 plays

1st Qtr- 1:59- Marcus Grudzinski, 1 yard run- the drive went 70 yards in 6 plays

2nd Qtr- 6:34- Gavin Talmadge, 2 yard run- the drive went 80 yards in 11 plays

3rd Qtr- 5:44- Adam Thomson, 8 yard pass from Marcus Grudzinski- the drive went 58 yards in 10 plays

3rd Qtr- 1:18- Derek DeMott, 1 yard run- the drive went 40 yard in 8 plays